

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2656
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
USAREUR
USAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 FRANKFURT 5729

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

USCINCEUR, USAREUR, USAFE FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) WB, GW, US
SUBJ: PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO FRANKFURT AND WIESBADEN

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
1. OVERALL EVALUATION

BY EVERY STANDARD THE FOUR-HOUR VISIT TO THE RHEIN/MAIN AREA
BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND FAMILY ON SATURDAY, JULY 15 WAS AN
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UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS FROM BOTH THE AMERICAN AND GERMAN STAND-
POINTS. WHILE THE VISIT WAS NEITHER INTENDED TO NOR DID ADDRESS
SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MASSIVELY
PUBLICIZED PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF THE PRESIDENT TOGETHER WITH
THE CHANCELLOR IN THIS AREA, THE THINGS SAID ON THE OCCASION
AND THE WARM WELCOME EXTENDED TO THE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE
FOR A SUBSTANTIALLY MORE POSTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE TONE IN PUBLIC

DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS AFFECTING THE UNITED STATES AND THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

2. THE PROGRAM

THE PRESIDENT, MRS. CARTER AND DAUGHTER AMY ACCOMPANIED BY SECRETARY VANCE, AMBASSADOR AND MRS. STOESSEL AND OTHERS WERE MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCES RHEIN/MAIN AIR BASE BY CHANCELLOR AND MRS. SCHMIDT (WHO HAD ARRIVED A FEW MINUTES EARLIER), FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE APEL, HESSIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT AND MRS. BOERNER, THE AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL AND MRS. LEHMANN, GENERAL EVANS, CINCUSAFE, GENERAL LIMBERG, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE GERMAN AIR FORCE AND COLONEL SPRINGER, THE WING COMMANDER AT THEIN/MAIN. ESCORTED BY THE TWO SENIOR AIR FORCE COMMANDERS, THE PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT INSPECTED 4 AMERICAN AND 4 GERMAN COMBAT AIRCRAFT AND TALKED WITH THE CREWS. THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WERE THE F-15, THE F-111 AND TWO F-4E PHANTOMS. THE GERMAN DISPLAY CONSISTED OF THE TORNADO, THE ALPHA JET, AN F-4-3 PHANTOM AND THE F-104G STAR FIGHTER. THE DISPLAY AND ITS ARRANGEMENT SERVED EXCELLENTLY TO MAKE THE POINT OF CLOSEST ALLIED COOPERATION AND INTEROPERABILITY.

3. THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR THEN PROCEEDED TO WIESBADEN/ERBENHEIM, THE STATION OF BRIGADE 76, HERE THEY REVIEWED A MASSIVE ARRAY OF 3,500 AMERICAN AND 1,350 BUNDESWEHR
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TROOPS ALONG WITH OVER 1,000 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING ALL TYPES OF TANKS, ARMORED VEHICLES, ARTILLERY, PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND NUMEROUS OTHER ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT OF THE HIGHLY MECHANIZED NATO DEFENSE FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION. THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR ALSO WITNESSED A DEMONSTRATION OF DEFENSE AGAINST ARMORED ATTACK INCLUDING THE HELICOPTER INSERTION OF RE-INFORCEMENTS TO SUPPORT A DEFENSIVE POSITION. CALLED BY MANY THE MOST IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF ITS KIND EVER SEEN, THE PERFORMANCE OF THE US ARMY AND BUDESWEHR ON THIS OCCASION PERFECTLY FIT THE MESSAGE OF ALLIED WILL, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, AND COOPERATION WHICH THE PRESIDENT CONVEYED IN HIS SPOKEN REMARKS DURING THE VISIT. BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR ADDRESSED REMARKS TO THE TROOPS AND FAMILY MEMBERS. (TEXTS HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY.)

4. ABOUT 45 MINUTES BEHIND SCHEDULE THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY PROCEEDED FROM WIESBADEN TO FRANKFURT BY THE EXPRESSWAY LINKING THE TWO CITIES. ALONG PORTIONS OF THE ROUTE NEARBY CITIZENS HAD ASSEMBLED TO CATCH EVEN A BRIEF GLIMPSE AS THE MOTORCADE SPED BY IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE UP TIME. ON ARRIVAL AT FRANKFURT'S HISTORIC ROEMER PLATZ THE PRESIDENT WAS GREETED BY LORD MAYOR WALTER WALLMANN AND AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD OF ABOUT 12,000

PEOPLE ASSEMBLED IN THE SQUARE AND THE IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT STREETS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY. MAYOR WALLMANN'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (TEXTS TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY) WERE WARMLY RECEIVED BY THE CROWD. A PARTICULARLY STRONG POSTIVE REACTION GREETED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT EXPRESSING THE HOPE FOR THE EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY. (AN ATTEMPT BY SCATTERED GROUPS TOTALLING ABOUT 200 ADHERENTS OF THE KBW-COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF WEST GERMANY TO MOUNT AN UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY FRUSTRATED BY POLICE BEFORE IT REACHED THE ROEMER PLATZ AND BEFORE THE PRESIDENT ARRIVED WITH ONLY ONE MINOR SCUFFLE AND NO INJURIES TO EITHER POLICE OR DEMONSTRATORS. 120 PEOPLE WERE TEMPORARILY DETAINED, OF WHICH 6 WERE EVENTUALLY CHARGED.)

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5. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC APPEARANCE, THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY PROCEEDED INTO FRANKFURT'S HISTORIC CITY HALL WHERE AFTER MINISTER-PRESIDENT BOERNER HAD BRIEFLY SPOKEN, THE PRESIDENT, MRS. CARTER AND AMY WERE INVITED TO SIGN THE GOLDEN BOOK OF THE CITY. THE OCCASION ALSO AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO BE INTRODUCED BRIEFLY TO LEADING POLITICIANS OF THE CITY AND THE STATE OF HESSE. WITH THE CITY VISIT THUS COMPLETED, THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY RETURNED TO RHEIN/MAIN AIR BASE FROM WHICH THE CHANCELLOR AND THE PRESIDENT PROCEEDED SEPARATELY TO BERLIN TEMPELHOF. AIR FORCE I DEPARTED FRANKFURT AT 1259 ALMOST 30 MINUTES BEHIND THE PLANNED SCHEDULE.

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6. MEDIA TREATMENT

MEDIA TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO THE RHEIN/MAIN AREA WAS SUBSTANTIAL BEFORE THE ACTUAL EVENT AND MASSIVE DURING THE VISIT AND IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. RADIO AND TELEVISION GAVE FULL COVERAGE DURING THE ENTIRE VISIT AND THE VISIT TO THE CITY OF FRANKFURT WAS TELEVISED LIVE ON CHANNEL 2 THROUGHOUT THE FRG. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT, ESPECIALLY ON MONDAY JULY 17 AND IN THOSE PAPERS WHICH APPEAR ON SUNDAY, WAS MASSIVE WITH ESPECIALLY HEAVY PICTORIAL COVERAGE. WITH VIRTUALLY NO EXCEPTION THE CONTENT OF MEDIA COVERAGE, REPORTORIAL AND EDITORIAL, WAS STRONGLY POSITIVE AND WARM. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO TRACE OF THE CRITICAL TONE WHICH HAS FREQUENTLY MARKED

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GERMAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF U.S. POLICIES IN THE RECENT PAST.

(FULLER SUMMARIES OF PRESS COVERAGE ARE TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY.)

END UNCLASSIFIED

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7. POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

A. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF US/GERMAN RELATIONS THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT WAS A STRONG PLUS. THE WARM AND FRIENDLY RECEPTION ACCORDED HIM REFLECTS THE DEEP-SEATED AND GENUINE PRO-AMERICAN SENTIMENT OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE GERMAN POPULACE. THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL APPEARANCE IN THE COUNTRY (AND NOT JUST BONN) HAS HELPED TO OVERCOME A SENSE OF DRIFTING APART WHICH TOO OFTEN SEEMS TO MARK COMMENT ON THE US/GERMAN RELATIONSHIP IN THE RECENT PAST. WHILE THE VISIT ITSELF TO THIS PART OF GERMANY DOES NOT OF COURSE REMOVE ISSUES WHICH MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN THE FUTURE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ITS OCCURRENCE AND THE PERSONAL IMPRESSION MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER WILL SERVE TO PRODUCE A WELCOME POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE NOTE IN THE PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF THE FUTURE.

IT REMINDED PEOPLE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF THE GERMAN/
AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP.

B. WITHIN THE INTERNAL GERMAN POLITICAL CONTEXT THE VISIT
AND ITS PREPARATION ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE TOP PRIORITY
THAT GERMAN POLITICIANS ATTACH TO BEING SEEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND
TELEVISED WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THE SELECTION
OF HESSE WAS, OF COURSE, IN THE FIRST PLACE A POLITICAL CHICE
BY THE BONN GOVERNMENT WITH MORE THAN ONE EYE ON THE
CRITICAL STATE ELECTION OF OCTOBER 8 WHICH COULD DETERMINE
THE FUTURE OF THE COALITION IN BONN. THIS WAS THE REASON
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FOR THE DESIRED AND ACHIEVED MAXIMUM EXPOSURE GIVEN TO MINISTER-
PRESIDENT BOERNER (SPD) DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT. THE
SELECTION OF THE CITY OF FRANKFURT WITH ITS NEW CDU MAYOR,
DR. WALLMANN, INVOLVED A MORE SUBTLE CALCULATION. IT WAS IN
SHORT THAT NOT PICKING FRANKFURT WOULD HAVE BEEN A FAR TOO
OBVIOUS POLITICAL GAMBIT WHICH WOULD HAVE LEFT THE GOVERNMENT
OPEN TO CHARGES THAT IT WAS BLATANTLY MANIPULATING THE STATE
VISIT BY THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT FOR PARTISAN POLITICAL
ADVANTAGE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THE APPEARANCE OF THE
PRESIDENT IN FRANKFURT BECOMES AN ASSET TO MAY WALLMANN AND
THE CDU, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE LARGE FRIENDLY CROWD WHICH
TURNED OUT FOR THE OCCASION AND THE FIRM YET RESTRAINED MANNER
IN WHICH THE CITY AUTHORITIES AND POLICE HANDLED THE COMMUNIST
DEMONSTRATIONS. AS FOR THE FDP, IT WAS NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINSTER
GENSCHER NOT ONLY TOOK CARE TO BE SEEN HIMSELF BUT ALSO MADE
A POINT, ESPECIALLY IN FRANKFURT'S HALL OF EMPERORS, TO MAKE
SURE THAT HESSIAN FDP BOSS EKKEHARD GRIES AS WELL AS FORMER
FDP CHAIRMAN KARRY WERE INTRODUCED TO THE PRESIDENT AND THAT
THIS EVENT WAS APPROPRIATELY RECORDED AND BROADCAST BY THE
TELEVISION CAMERAS. IN THE END EVERYTHING PROBABLY BALANCED
OUT AND IT IS LIKELY THAT AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, NO NET
ADVANTAGE WILL ACCRUE TO ANY OF THE CONTESTANTS IN THE OCTOBER
8. ELECTION AS A RESULT OF THIS VISIT.

END CONFIDENTIAL.LEHMANN

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